REMARKS

Applicants submit that upon entry of the above amendment the claims will be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested. If there are any charges or any credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 03-2095.

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with markings to show changes made

1. (Amended) A method for treating or preventing congestive heart failure in a mammal, said method comprising administering a polypeptide comprising an epidermal growth factor-like (EGF-like) domain to said mammal, wherein said EGF-like domain is encoded by the [a] neuregulin (NRG)-1 gene, wherein said administering is in an amount effective to treat or prevent heart failure in said mammal.

Pending Claims

1. A method for treating or preventing congestive heart failure in a mammal, said method comprising administering a polypeptide comprising an epidermal growth factor-like (EGF-like) domain to said mammal, wherein said EGF-like domain is encoded by a neuregulin (NRG)-1 gene, wherein said administering is in an amount effective to treat or prevent heart failure in said mammal.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein said polypeptide is recombinant human GGF2.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said mammal is a human.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein said congestive heart failure results from hypertension; ischemic heart disease; exposure to a cardiotoxic compound; myocarditis; thyroid disease; viral infection; gingivitis; drug abuse; alcohol abuse; periocarditis; atherosclerosis; vascular disease; hypertrophic cardiomyopathy; acute myocardial infarction; left ventricular systolic dysfunction; coronary bypass surgery; starvation; an eating disorder; or a genetic defect.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said mammal has undergone a myocardial infarction.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said cardiotoxic compound is an anthracycline; alcohol; or cocaine.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said anthracyline is doxorubicin, or daunomycin.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein an anti-ErbB2 or anti-HER2 antibody is administered to said mammal before, during, or after anthracycline administration.

15. The method of claim 10, wherein said cardiotoxic compound is an anti-ErbB2 or anti-HER2 antibody.

17. The method of claim 10, wherein said polypeptide is administered prior to exposure to said cardiotoxic compound.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein said polypeptide is administered during exposure to said cardiotoxic compound.

19. The method of claim 10, wherein said polypeptide is administered after exposure to said cardiotoxic compound.

20. The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is administered prior to the diagnosis of congestive heart failure in said mammal.

21. The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is administered after the diagnosis of congestive heart failure in said mammal.

22. The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is administered to a mammal that has undergone compensatory cardiac hypertrophy.

23. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of said polypeptide maintains left ventricular hypertrophy.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein said method prevents progression of myocardial thinning.

25. The method of claim 1, wherein administration of said polypeptide inhibits cardiomyocyte apoptosis.

26. The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is administered by administering an expression vector encoding said polypeptide to said mammal.

Cancelled Claims

3. (Cancelled) The method of claim 1, wherein said polypeptide is encoded by the NRG-1 gene.

16. (Cancelled) The method of claim 14 or 15, wherein said anti-ErbB2 or anti-HER2 antibody is HERCEPTIN®.